

A LITTLE CARE GOES A LONG WAY

Your new tree needs your help to survive until it develops a strong root system. A small amount of care from you will greatly increase its chances of growing into a beautiful addition to your property and our community. Young trees need three things: water, mulch, and protection from lawn care equipment.



VILLAGE OF AKRON

21 Main Street
Akron, NY 14001
716-542-9636
www.erie.gov/akron

CARING FOR YOUR



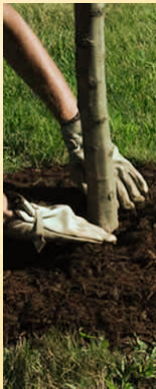
NEW TREE



WATER

The best way to water a new tree is slowly. A plastic five gallon pail works best – with three 1/8” holes on one side, two inches apart, one-half inch from the bottom. This will allow the water to drain slowly enough so the moisture goes down into the roots, where it is needed. Tie the handle to a stake or the tree to keep the pail from blowing away (don’t tie it too tightly), with the holes pointed toward the base of the tree. Unless it has been very rainy, fill the pail with water once each week, but twice per week during hot summer weather. That’s all you need to do!! The water will drain out by itself. Fill your tree pail with your garden hose or another pail, so you can leave it tied to your tree. Your watering job is done when the leaves drop in the fall, but save the pail for the second year. After that, your tree should be able to fend for itself, except in very dry weather.

MULCH



To help prevent soil dryness, mulch an area around the tree three feet in diameter, two to four inches in depth. Mulch can be shredded bark, wood chips, compost, or bark chips. Mulch should not be compacted because it works best when it can “breathe” a bit. This will keep the soil moist, and works

well with the watering program. With mulch and water, your new tree will have a good chance of growing well, and beautifying your home. Like your lawn, it will grow well without fertilizer, and it will grow better if fertilized. Contact a tree care professional or garden supply store for fertilizer recommendations.

PROTECTION FROM LAWN CARE EQUIPMENT



Lawn mowers and weed whackers can do serious damage to the tender bark of young trees. The outer portion of the tree, (the inner bark) feeds the roots, so it is important to protect it from damage. Trees should be protected up to eight inches in height by a collar of plastic underdrain pipe, tree wrap, or a plastic tree protector. This protection should

be left in place for the first several years, so the tree can grow and the bark can thicken. When your tree outgrows its collar, simply remove the collar. Always be careful to keep lawn equipment from bumping or damaging trees.

TRIMMING AND PRUNING

As it grows, your tree will need pruning to help it grow straight, with branches at the right height. In

order to keep trees from interfering with vehicular and pedestrian traffic, the Village Tree Policy specifies that tree branches will be trimmed to a height of eight (8) feet along sidewalks, and to a height of twelve (12) feet along roadways. If your tree is on Village property (between the sidewalk and the street) we will be glad to prune your tree. Call the Village of Akron Department of Public Works at 542-2680 and we will trim as needed. Please call us for any other tree questions you have. Thank you for caring for your tree, and for helping to improve our community.

